



Report as of September 23, 2019

1. State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia resigned and Beth Berlin is acting as the interim Commissioner effective September 1, 2019 and will remain in that position until the NYS Board of Regents selects a permanent Commissioner. She served in this role as well from January to July 2015 upon the departure of John King. This link is to her Back to School letter to parents. In it, she discusses the roles of school resource officers in safeguarding the rights of all students, including undocumented students, to receive a public education without fear of intervention by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. She also included a letter that clarifies the obligations of all school districts to administer their student discipline policies and practices. <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Parent-Update--Welcome-Back-to-School-.html?soid=1110847617454&aid=2y7O0VGYWRI>

There is also included in her letter, a link with resources and guidance available to help districts implement policies and programs that support Social and Emotional Learning, which is a recent addition to education requirements. www.nysed.gov/news/2019/new-guidance-and-resources-available-school-districts-support-implementation-social

2. The 2020 New York State Teacher of the Year is Rachel Murat. Ms. Murat is a high school social studies teacher and technology integration teacher at Maine-Endwell High School in Endwell, New York. Ms. Murat was a finalist for the NYS Teacher of the Year Award in 2019. Ms. Murat founded a nonprofit pantry system and she provides resources that fed over 100 families in her community. She is the 50th NYS Teacher of the Year recipient and has been teaching for 24 year. At NYS PTA convention this year we will hear from Alhassan Susso, the 2019 recipient.

3. My Brother's Keeper (MBK) launched a new website which features a stream-lined design to present information more efficiently. <http://www.nysed.gov/mbk>

4. 2018-2019 FAFSA Deadlines - Federal Deadline: Online applications must be submitted by midnight Central Time, June 30, 2020. Any corrections or updates must be submitted by midnight Central Time, September 12, 2020. New York State Deadline is June 30, 2020, CST. College Deadlines: Each college may have a different deadline. Check with the college(s) you are interested in attending. You may also want to ask your college about its definition of an application deadline – whether it is the date the college receives your FAFSA, or the date your FAFSA is processed.

Attached is a link for parents who are interested in obtaining an estimate of their FAFSA eligibility without completing the entire procedure. It is a good tool for parents of freshmen through juniors. <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/estimate>

5. The SAT and ACT test dates for 2019:

- ACT 10/26/19 – deadline to register 9/20/19 – results 11/12/19
- ACT 12/14/19 – deadline to register 11/8/19 – results 12/26/19
- SAT 10/5/19 – deadline to register 9/6/19 – results 10/18/19
- SAT 11/2/19 – deadline to register 10/3/19 – results 11/15/19
- SAT 12/7/19 – deadline to register 11/8/19 – results 12/20/19